

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13522

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, CASE, UR (CRAWFORD, F. JAY)
SUBJECT: DETENTION OF AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN

1. THE FOLLOWING DATA REGARDING AN INCIDENT IN WHICH CRAWFORD WAS INVOLVED ON MAY 26 AND WHICH WAS REPORTED TO THE POST'S SECURITY OFFICER ON JUNE 1 IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

2. ON MAY 26 AT APPROXIMATELY 1730-35, CRAWFORD, WHO HAD JUST PACKED HIS VEHICLE IN THE VICINITY OF THE EMBASSY'S COMMERCIAL OFFICE, OBSERVED A VEHICLE CUT DIAGONALLY ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE ULITSA CHAYKOVSKOGO ACCESS ROAD TOWARDS HIM. CRAWFORD WHO WAS STANDING ALONGSIDE HIS VEHICLE IN THE STREET AVOIDED BEING HIT BY THIS CAR BY JUMPING ON THE HOOD. AT THIS POINT CRAWFORD BELIEVED THAT THE DRIVER OF THE VEHICLE WAS ONLY OPERATING THE VEHICLE RECKLESSLY AND GAVE THE MATTER NO MORE THOUGHT. CRAWFORD PROCEEDED TO WALK ALONG THE STREET TOWARDS THE COMMERCIAL OFFICE. AS HE REACHED A "BREAK" IN THE PARKED VEHICLES WHICH PERMITTED HIM ACCESS TO THE SIDEWALK AND ULTIMATELY THE COMMERCIAL OFFICE,
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THE VEHICLE WHICH HAD STOPPED SEVERAL CAR LENGTHS FROM THE ORIGINAL POINT OF CONFRONTATION AGAIN HEADED DIRECTLY TOWARDS CRAWFORD. CRAWFORD AVOIDED BEING HIT BY THE VEHICLE AND WAS ABLE TO NOTE THE VEHICLE'S DESCRIPTION AND REGISTRATION. A CHECK OF APPROPRIATE RECORDS REVEALED NO INFORMATION REGARDING THE VEHICLE. THIS LATTER

CONFRONTATION WAS OBSERVED BY A COMMERCIAL OFFICER AND THE MILITSIAMAN POSTED AT THE USCO ENTRANCE. THE MILITSIAMAN STATED THAT HE REPORTED THE INCIDENT TO THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITIES. CRAWFORD FELT THAT THE TWO ATTEMPTS AT RUNNING HIM DOWN WERE MORE THAN COINCIDENCE.

3. ANOTHER EMBASSY OFFICER HAS REPORTED THAT DURING A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH CRAWFORD, CRAWFORD INDICATED THAT DURING A TRIP TO AN UNKNOWN SOVIET CITY PRIOR TO MAY 31 HE WAS APPROACHED BY A SOVIET FEMALE IN HIS HOTEL ROOM. THE SOVIET REQUESTED CRAWFORD'S ASSISTANCE IN FLEEING FROM THE USSR. CRAWFORD APPARENTLY SENSED THAT THIS INCIDENT COULD POSSIBLY BE A PROVOCATION AND ESCORTED THE WOMAN FROM HIS ROOM. NO FURTHER DETAILS AVAILABLE.

4. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT CRAWFORD HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH VIOLATION OF SOVIET CURRENCY REGULATIONS, THE ABOVE DESCRIBED INCIDENTS COULD HAVE BEEN EARLIER ATTEMPTS TO INVOLVE HIM IN SOME TYPE OF PROVOCATION/COMPROMISE. TOON

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